

Message Text

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SUBJ: AP REPORTS 'LINK' DOES EXIST

REF: ANKARA 1933

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN LOCAL EDITION OF
ASSOCIATED PRESS BULLETIN MARCH 15 WITH DATELINE (AP)
WASHINGTON. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE REPORT IN ANY TURKISH
LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, BUT THE LIMITED-CIRCULAION TURKISH
DAILY NEWS FEATURES ALL BUT THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS
IN ITS MARCH 15 EDITION.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DESPITE PUBLIC DENIALS, US STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS SAY PRIVATELY THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN TURKEY'S
WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS AND UNITED STATES'
APPROVLA OF A ONE BILLION DOLLAR MILITARY AID PROGRAM FOR
THE TURKS.

BUT, THE OFFICIALS CLAIM, THE LINK WAS FORGED BY THE
SENATE--NOT US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION.

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THE NEED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC DENIALS AROSE LAST
WEEK WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE ANSWERED A QUESTION
ABOUT US-TURKISH RELATIONS POSED BY SENATOR RICHARD
SCHWEIKER DURING HEARINGS BY THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS.

"WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE WHAT WILL BE PUT ON THE

TABLE BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT (OF GREECE AND TURKEY) VERY SHORTLY WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS. AND WE WILL WANT TO EXAMINE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH OUR OVERALL DECISION AS TO WHAT WE WILL BE DOING," VANCE SAID.

TURKISH PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT REACTED ANGRILY. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS TRYING TO PRESSURE TURKEY ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, WHICH TURKEY INSISTS IS UNRELATED TO US-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATIONS. HE HINTED THAT TURKEY, NATO'S SOUTHEASTERN OUTPOST, MIGHT LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR AID.

THE REACTION, SAID DEPARTMENT SOURCES WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, CAUGHT VANCE BY SURPRISE.

SO ON MONDAY, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER III WAS INSTRUCTED TO TELL REPORTERS "THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING." CARTER SAID THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION ON THE AID PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE LINKED TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION. THAT IS THE PUBLIC STANCE WHICH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CONTRADICT PRIVATELY.

ADMINISTRATION AND SENATE SOURCES SAID MONDAY THAT THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE SENATE UNLESS TURKEY MAKES SOME SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS.

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HODDING CARTER TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION ON WHETHER TO ASK CONGRESS TO APPROVE A ONE-BILLION-DOLLAR BASE AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY WOULD NOT BE LINKED TO TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IN ITS DISPUTE WITH GREECE OVER CYPRUS.

ECEVIT INTERPRETED VANCE'S REMARKS TO SUGGEST THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS AWAITING THE SUBMISSION OF TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE TURKISH BASE AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATED TWO YEARS AGO." END TEXT
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